

North Vancouver Community Associations Network (NVCAN)

Date: Thursday, January 18, 2018

(Please note revised date)

Location: DNV Hall, 355 Queens St W

Room: Meeting Room A

Time: 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

AGENDA for Regular Meeting

1. Welcome
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes – November 15, 2017
4. Old Business: Advocate expanding the DNV Community Building Grant to \$15,000. - John
5. New Business:
 - a. Terms of Reference re voting procedures (see following letter from Edgemont and Upper Capilano Community Association).
 - b. DNV Budget meeting with NVCAN review.
6. Community Roundtable
7. Next Meeting Date. Wednesday, February 21, 2018 - Workshop
8. Adjournment.

December 7, 2017

Atten: NVCAN Board
c/o Babs Perowne, Secretary-Treasurer

Subject: Terms of Reference for the NV Community Associations Network

The Executive Committee of the *Edgemont and Upper Capilano Community Association* (EUCCA) recently reviewed the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the North Vancouver Community Associations Network. During this review, a number of serious concerns were raised and, as a result, the Executive Committee decided that under the ToR as presently drafted, it would not be in the best interest of our association to become a member of the North Vancouver Community Associations Network (NVCAN). We are, however, open to reconsidering this position if the ToR were to be amended to reflect our concerns. This letter explains these concerns in detail.

The Mandate of NVCAN says in part:

“Our mandate is to facilitate effective Community Associations through sharing information and ideas, mentoring new and upcoming Community Associations, hosting community roundtables and promoting vibrant neighbourhoods.”

We support these laudable intentions. The rest of the Mandate is well thought out and also worthy of support. But the devil is in the details. The detailed ToR which flows from the Mandate is problematic in several respects.

1. The Strategy which immediately follows a pithy and accurate summary of the Mandate at the beginning of the ToR contains, among other things:

*“Dialogue with DNV and other levels of government on behalf of CAs.
Advocate on behalf of CAs.”*

The purpose of community associations in dealing with local government is to represent the interests of each community. Where District Council and DNV staff necessarily represent the District as a whole, it is the job of CAs to ensure that Council and staff have a clear understanding of how particular plans and policies might affect particular communities and to know the views of those communities. Inserting NVCAN between community associations (CAs) and local government in such circumstances gives rise to the same problem faced by Council; it is an organization for the District as a whole, and its ability to handle the concerns of specific communities must necessarily be diluted.

The actual objective of NVCAN in this regard is specified in subsection (b) of section E. NVCAN Role, which says:

“Act as advocate when authorized by NVCAN to District Council on district-wide issues.”

In other words, NVCAN, when authorized, would act for the North Vancouver community as a whole. In order to avoid confusion between this specific policy and the general wording of the Strategy, we request that the Strategy wording be changed from *“Dialogue with DNV and other levels of government on behalf of CAs”* to *“Dialogue . . . on behalf of the community”*. This change would not answer our concern with the process of authorization, but more on that later.

2. As to the next line in Strategy, about advocating "on behalf of CAs" generally, it is our view that EUCCA has had a successful history of dealings with DNV and does not require the assistance of another body. Our concern here is met in subsection (c) of section E, which says:

"Act as advocate to District Council on local issues when requested by the relevant CAs and when authorized by NVCAN."

We respectfully suggest that the line from Strategy, "Act on behalf of CAs", be amended to accord better with section E. (c) by adding the words "*on the request of those CAs*".

3. Section C (b) requires CAs to "... abide by the bylaws and rules of NVCAN." We suggest this be amended to "... abide by the terms of reference of NVCAN. "

4. Section D (a) (ii) provides for a six member-executive, which could result in tie votes. While under *Robert's Rules*, a motion which results in a tie vote is defeated, we respectfully suggest that the Executive comprise an odd number of members to avoid controversies.

5. Section D (c) deals with voting. Subsection (ii) has several problems:

- Two methods of passing motions are stipulated, "simple majority" and "2/3 majority". One must be stipulated and the other deleted. If different means are intended for the passing of different kinds of motions, the kinds of motions should be specified.
- "No proxy votes are allowed." Where a representative of a CA is unable to attend a meeting of NVCAN but makes his or her CA's position unequivocally clear to the NVCAN or to a representative of another CA who is able to attend, it would be unconscionable to disregard the absent CA's vote. We cannot agree to this requirement.
- While a majority decision may well be appropriate for procedural and internal organizational issues, we cannot accept a structure which could result in NVCAN making representations to the District with which we do not agree. Unanimity must be the standard.

For example, we see in section 4 (h) of the draft minutes of the NVCAN General Meeting of 20 September that a motion was made "*that NVCAN demand that DNV put a moratorium on all housing developments until the traffic issues are finally answered.*" If a majority of CAs were to support such a motion, be it a simple or a 2/3 majority, but a minority of CAs opposed the motion on the reasoning that it would damage NVCAN's credibility with District Council to ask such a thing, the demand could be made regardless of the minority's views. To us, such a situation would be untenable. Votes on motions which would have NVCAN taking a position on behalf of its member CAs must be passed unanimously.

Our Executive Committee looks forward to NVCAN's response to the above and we are open to discussing our suggested amendments to the Terms of Reference.

Sincerely,
Brian Platts, Secretary
Edgemont and Upper Capilano Community Association
Ph. 604-988-5594